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CIA HISTORICAL REVIEW PROGRAM  
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HGG-A-528

Dec 9 1953

2003

Chief, WAD

Chief of Station, Guatemala

KUGOWN Priority Assignments

Psychological Barometer Report - Period Ending  
28 November 1953

Reference: HGG-A-518

1. After a brief flurry of speculation regarding events which were believed to alter existing conditions relating to psychological barometer matters, as reported in HGG-A-518, this period has been relatively quiet and no appreciable changes noted.
  - a. Municipal elections confirmed previous reports regarding the apathy with which most people view the efficacy of the electoral process. In Guatemala City the voters stayed away from the poll in unprecedented numbers.
  - b. Surprisingly few comments were noted regarding the previously reported meeting between President AREENZ and high ranking army officers. As this report is written there is nothing new to state regarding the attitudes of army officers.
  - c. Speculation regarding possible Communist activity following the return of FORTUNY and GUTIERREZ has also subsided and probably will not again achieve reporting significance until they actually arrive from behind the Iron Curtain.
  - d. Election abuses, economic problems (e.g., teachers' pay, serious shortages of funds and supplies in hospitals, etc.), continued conflicts among official parties, and an alleged blackmail scandal involving a Congressman were the principal topics of conversation during the reporting period, but there were no reports related to these events which would tend to show significant modification of prevailing attitudes.

1 December 1953

George L. Tranger

GLT/cmh

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